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Letter dated 5 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 January 2001 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 24 to 31 December 2000 they carried out 213 sorties, 119 of them from Saudi Arabia, 78 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Humaimidi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 213 sorties in the period from 24 to 31 December 2000, 119 of them from Saudi Arabia, 78 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 16 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1105 hours on 18 [i.e. 24?] December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 197 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 25 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Hayy, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1155 hours on 26 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Busayyah, Shatrah, Amarah, Qurnah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1015 hours on 27 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 38 missions, 30 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah, Basrah, Lasaf, Najaf, Samawah, Qal'at Sukkar, Diwaniyah, Nukhayb, Hayy, Talhah and Nu'maniyah areas. Our air

defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1203 hours on 28 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 45 missions, 23 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah South, Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Hayy, Afak, Taqtaqanah, Diwaniyah, Hashimiyah and Najaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2005 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1018 hours on 29 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Qal'at Salih, Najaf and Ukhaydir areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2100 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1830 hours on 30 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Qurnah, Rifa'i and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1945 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1455 hours on 31 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Jalibah, Ashbajah, Rumaythah, Qurnah, Lasaf, Salman, Umm Qasr, Artawi, Basrah, Samawah, Rifa'i, Shatrah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Diwaniyah and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1625 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq